REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 23, 2008. Claims 1 to 24 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 13, 14 and 16 to 18 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 12, 14 to 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,826,597 (Lonroth), and Claims 13, 17, 20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lonroth. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention as claimed in Claims 1 and 16 offers a service provided by a server on a communication network. The server sends to a client a service description document defining the type of data exchanged between the server and any client when the service is executed. The service description document is independent of any client or user characteristic and comprises a description of a processing functionality implemented during a preprocessing or post-processing of data in XML format of a message exchanged during the execution of the service on the communication network. Here, the document is the same for any client requesting a description of the services provided by the server. It is this feature that distinguishes the claimed invention over the cited art.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 1 is directed to a method of offering a service provided by a server computer in a communication network, comprising sending, from the server computer that provides the service to a client computer, a service description document, which is independent of any client or user characteristic, defining

the type of data exchanged between the server and any client when the service is executed, the document comprising a description of a processing functionality implemented during a preprocessing or post-processing of data in XML format of a message exchanged during the execution of the service on the communication network.

Claim 16 is an apparatus claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 1.

Lonnroth is not seen to teach the features of the invention, and in particular, with regard to Claims 1 and 16, Lonroth is not seen to teach the features of sending, from the server computer that provides the service to a client computer, a service description document, which is independent of any client or user characteristic, defining the type of data exchanged between the server and any client when the service is executed, the document comprising a description of a processing functionality implemented during a preprocessing or post-processing of data in XML format of a message exchanged during the execution of the service on the communication network.

Lonnroth discloses that an XML request document is created for each request that the pre-processor receives. The XML request document describes the exact request that is sent by the client and therefore, is specific to the client. Thus, in Lonnroth, the XML request document is dependent on the request and on the user sending the request (see, column 5, lines 37 to 44: "specifically, the pre-processor 240 searches configuration database 254 to determine how to construct the XML document ... based on the phone number and the user id.") In contrast, in the invention, the service description document is the same for any client and is independent of any client or user characteristics. Therefore, Lonroth is not seen to teach the features of Claims 1 and 16.

In another aspect of the invention according to Claims 13 and 17, the

invention tests access to a service by a client computer in a communication network, from a service description document. The client computer, i) extracts, from the service description document, which is provided by a server computer offering the service, a description of a processing functionality implemented during a preprocessing or a post-processing of data in XML format of a message exchanged during the execution of the service on the communication network, ii) reads, from the extracted description of the processing functionality, a value associated with a property adapted to specify a node in the communication network adapted to execute the processing, iii) reads, from the extracted description of the processing functionality, a value of a property adapted to specify whether the processing is obligatory or optional, and iv) verifies whether the processing is supported by the client computer in the communication network when the processing is obligatory and must be executed by the client computer in the communication network.

Lonnroth is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of i) extracting from a service description document, which is provided by a server offering a service, a description of a processing functionality implemented during a preprocessing or a post-processing of data in XML format of a message exchanged during the execution of the service on the communication network, ii) reading, from the extracted description of the processing functionality, a value associated with a property adapted to specify a node in the communication network adapted to execute the processing, iii) reading, from the extracted description of the processing functionality, a value of a property adapted to specify whether the processing is obligatory or optional, and iv) verifying whether processing is supported by the client computer in the communication network when processing is obligatory and must be executed by the client computer in the communication network.

In Lonroth, the generation of a message is required. However, in the present invention, the client can test access to the service without generating the message. Thus, Lonroth is not seen to teach the foregoing features of Claims 13 and 17.

In yet another aspect of the invention according to Claims 14 and 18, the invention validates a message received by an intermediate computer in a communication network, from a service description document comprising a description of a processing functionality implemented during a preprocessing or the post-processing of data in XML format of the message exchanged during the execution of a service on the communication network. The invention acquires the message by the intermediate computer and extracts, from the service description document, the description of the service associated with the document. Then, the intermediate computer i) extracts a processing from the received message, ii) acquires from the service description document at least one imperative value associated with a property of the processing, and iii) verifies whether the imperative value is included in a list of values which can be attributed to a property supported by the functionality described in the service description document.

In Lonroth, only the service can validate the document because the service uses some user or client information to perform security checks (authorization, identification, etc.). However, in the invention, there is no need for the validation to have such knowledge of the client. This enables the ability to make the validation and the service totally independent, which is not true in Lonroth. Thus, Lonroth is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 14 and 18.

Thus, Claims 1, 13, 14 and 16 to 18, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable over Lonnroth.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned representative to schedule a telephonic interview to discuss the foregoing amendments and remarks in more detail.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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